

" THE GAME "

PROPERTY OF JOHNNIE SPEER.

THE GAME

CAST OF CHARACTERS

TIM MAYO	CHARACTER LEAD MAYOR
GENELEMANGS* GEORGE DURNELL ...	HEAVY
BUD SHEEHAN	CHARACTER SHERIFF
DOUGLASS KING OF NEW YORK	JUVENILE
WILLIAM LATIMER	CHARACTER
NELLIE MAYO	INGENUE LEAD
MRS KATE DESMOND	COMEDienne
NANCE MAYO	HEAVY

Scene Library of Tim's home in the outskirts of Goldland, Nevada---the present time.

Scene Plot

Interior on the mission order of architecture all furniture on mission style except a few pieces, a general air of partly prosperous ranch house combined with some touches of Eastern luxury.

Tim Mayo ... Age fifty Stout, rugged appearing smooth face, handsome business suit not too quiet in pattern, but not at all loud. Fanny vest in good taste, heavy watch chain, long auto coat ripped and torn, and brown derby hat cut and smashed, worn on first entrance, patent leather shoes.

Bud Shehan .. Age 45 Tall and heavily built of the bull necked square jawed type, a typical ex-prize fighter, smooth face florid complexion Light checkered goods of swell goods and cut, bright red vest with large plaid green or yellow pattern, showy watch chain and much jewelery, light gray derby hat, loud tie, patent leather shoes with light gray cloth tops

Durnell.... Quietly dressed in business suit of excellent type.

Nothing loud or flashy in dress or appearance, absolutely refined and gentlemanly age forty hair slightly gray, small mustache.

Latimer ... Age thirty five rather pedantic in manner and appearance plain business suit of black tie, smooth face wears gold rimmed spectacles till final scene.

King ... Age twenty clean athletic appearing young American, stylish travelling suit, everything show wealth, but in perfect taste smooth face

Nellie Age twenty dainty refined and girlish in appearances, first dress handsome travelling own suitable for a girl of her age, in the very latest style, second dress an afternoon summer house dress third dress handsome gown suitable for all women of her age.

Nance/ Age forty handsome woman to the brunette type not exactly disipated in appearance, but in manner and general air, shows results of many years living without restraint and wide experience with the world. Handsome travelling gown of striking color and style but not too loud and not too bad in taste, should change in last act to another gown somewhat more elaborate, but not strictly evening dress.

Kate .. age forty handsome refined woman of excellent figure.

(LATIMER ENTERS AFTER RISE? BUD IS DISCOVERED ON.)

Latimer

This telegram requires so a attention.

Bud

It'll get attention all right (returns to table and reads telegram again) Nellie and I will arrive at 12 30 tomorrow Kate Desmond, I'll be at the station at twelve thirty and when Nellie and Kate see me they'll--- (auto heard outside) And when Nellie--- There is Tim and his joy wagon now. He is back ahead of time.

Latimer

It is not Mr Mayo there are two ladies in the machine.

Bud

Ladies?

Latimer

And they are getting out.

Bud

Gittin' out who in the blazes are they?

Latimer

Whoever they are they are coming in here (door bell rings outside L Latimer exits quickly arch L)

Bud

Comin' in here (suddenly grabs telegram from table and reads it slowly) will arrive at ten thirty, that blamed two spot is naught (suddenly realizes) Its them two skirts by thunder (drops telegram on table goes R looking off L)

Kate

(enters quickly L followed by Latimer and Nellie) Tell, Mr Mayow we are here if you please.

Latimer

(L C) Mr Mayo is not home just now.

Kate

I am Mrs Kate Desmond, my telegram recieved?

Latimer

Yes during Mr Mayo's absence, he has been away several days.

Nellie

Then we will go to our rooms and wait (starts R)

Bud

(goes down R and stands between Nellie and arch R) Scuse me lady--- (Nellie stops) What might your business be with Mr. Mayo?

OOOOOOO Kate

What in the world is the man talking about?

Latimer

This is Mr Sheehan? r Mayo's campaign manager.

Bud

Yes so if you've got any gentleman friends whose voted you's kind deliver, or any little trick like that to turn whylets get busy.

Kate

My, good man, we know nothing of this nonsense we have just arrived from N. Y.

Nellie

And I wish to see Mr. Mayo the instant he returns.

Bud

Nothin' doin' lady, nothin' doin', no skirts---dam (hastily corrects himself) I mean ladies allowed till after the convention I guess I'll do just as well as Tim

Nell

You? (laughs) I hardlyt think you will.

Bud

Oh come now, git wise, I want to act like a gent, but a

but even if Tim was here + wouldn't let you see him what ever your business is you will have to take me in his place.

Nellie

(goes to him) I am Mr. Mayo's daughter. (cigar falls from his mouth)
We (Nellie goes to arch)

Kate

(to Bud) And I am Miss Mayo's chaperon (Buds hat slips from fingers)
We will go and select our rooms (goes to Nellie)

Nellie

(to Bud) As soon as our trunks arrive bring them up (exit arch with Kate)

Bud

(unfounded) Well what do you so tink of dat slowly picks up cigar and hat) Tim has got a daughter. (turns to Latimer and he aint been gone a week. (pause then suddenly) Why somebody will be claimin' that he has got a wife next.

Latimer

Oh she did fifteen years ago.

Bud

(looks quickly at him and then goes to table) Do you mean to tell me that Tim Mayo is married.

Latimer

He was once, his wife left a girl five years old.

Bud W

Well, this is a fine fix up Tim had a wife, the wife had a aduahgter and the daught r's got a chaperon (drops in chair R of table and passes hand across forehead) Wif is news to me and I have knowed him ten years (suddenly looks at Latimer) You have only been here three weeks, how did you learn so much?

Latimer

I heard it in New York some years ago. (goes back of table arranging papers)

Bud

And in all these years he never told me.

Latimer

I think he would not like to speak of it, the wife was young handsome woman but vain and frivolous.

Bud

That's a cinch, even if she wasn't young and handsome.

Latimer

He was poor then and unable to give her the luxuries she craved. She went from bad to worse accepted attention gifts, money from other men, and finally ran away with one of them.

Bud

(half rising with clinched fists) If I had been Tim Mayo I'd killed---

Latimer

The man, what good would that have done?

Bud

Not the man but the woman (restrains himself, sits back) Well?

Latimer

That's all except that she left the child a year later it was reported she had died in a London hospital.

Bud

And I suppose Tim came out here to forget and begin life all over again. But I would have liked to get my hands on that woman just once. (rises)

Latimer

You don't entertain a very high regard for woman.

Bud

I never knew many. I knowed one once too blame well.

Latimer

(looks at him) Same case as Mayos?

Bud

No, she wasn't my wife. (goes up a sound of distant cheering and shouting, auto horns come nearer.)

Latimer

(Bud) Where he comes 'goes to balcony and looks off L) and the gang is with him (cheers outside) Here 'em holler (turns to Latimer) Don't say anything to him yet about the girl and the ---chap ---er I'll spring it later.

Latimer

Ver well sir. (tumult outside) Mr Mayo seems popular here.

Bud

Popular. He ons the whole balmed town (auto horn heard under balcony) Look at that. (points L) They are liftin' him bodily out of the machine (shouts heard outside "Hurrah for Mayo the next Senator good boy tim and Bud calls off) Here youse hands off do you hear? Hands off the boss there (calls down) Gee whiz talk about popularity. Why, they are simply tearing the clothes off of him.

Tim

(outside) That'll do, that'll do (shouts and cheers) Shut the door Bill shut 'em out.

Voices

(outside L) Three cheers for Tim Mayo (cheers given

Tim

(enters quickly arch L wears long auto coat ripped and hat torn out and shamed collar and tie undone)

Bud

Well, where in the blazes have you been?

Tim

(look at torn coat etc) In the hands of my friends. (takes off torn hat and holds it out) Look at that hat, Bud, I thought they would take my hair with it.

Voices

(outside) Speech Tim, speech---speech.

Tim

Speech is it (goes to balcony and calls off) How can I make a speech when you have knocked all the breath out of me? God won to my place and tell the bartenders I'll discharge them if they let any one of y u go home sober. (noise outside as if crowd was goin away Tim comes down behind table removing coat and throwing it on chair) The speech that really reached the heart of every enlightened voter is the magic words, "What are you going to have?"

Bud

(l C) Sure the issue now adays aint free silver, but free booze.

Latimer

(at table L of Tim) Any instructions for m, Mr Mayo?

Tim

Yes, if you ever go out electioneering, leave your clothes behind you.

(goes right and arranges tie and collar in glass over mantel) Well, Bud, how's things look for you?

Bud

Great. Gentleman won't get any votes tonight.

Tim

He won't get any?

Bud

Oh he will get a few. But you'll have a good majority though it is going to cost you something.

Tim

To hell with the cost. My nomination is going too unanimous what's the use of us being satisfied with a little cheap majority when for a few

thousand more you can have a whole convention.

Latimer

I wrote your speech last week, sir, here it is. (takes manuscript from pocket goes to L. of table and hands it to Tim)

Tim

(looks over manuscript) I was going to use the same one that I did eleven years ago when I was made coroner.

Latimer

I thought it better to give them something new

Tim

There is nothing new to candidates speeches, they all promise that they will do everything that they don't mean to do, and they do everything they are going to do. You may go and telephone over to the place and tell the head dealer to take the limit off every game in the house. (Latimer X's and exits arch R Tim turns to Bud) Them delegates is all over there playing faro, and I may as well get that eighteen thousand I put out to them back. (winks at Bud)

Bud

Are you dead sure of them all tonight?

Tim

Sure? Of course. They are all bought and paid for and there aint a dishonest man in the bunch. Why I'm as good as in the senate right now.

Bud

Things is bound to go wrong sometime in every man's life.

Tim

Yes, and I have had my share once.

Bud

Tim(pauses and looks at him) Hate to remind you, but----

Tim

But what?

Bud

(hesitates slowly rises takes telegram from table and hands it to him he reads it slowly rises) They come an hour ago. (pauses watches Tim) Its---your daughter.

Tim

Yes. (slowly crumples telegram in hand) I'd almost forgot. (telegram slips from fingers)

Bud

(anxiously going to him) It aint brought trouble to you?

Tim

No---it only reminds me of one that is past and gone. (rouses himself notices cigar still in fingers, lays it on table takes pipe and lights it, goes and sits L on couch smoking and thinking thoughtfully)

Bud

(watches him, after pause speaks) Tim old man---

Tim

Yes

Bud

You aint alone and you aint friendless, forget what was, and think what you are now.

Tim

What am I now? Yes I am Mayor of this town, I'm going to be senator. I've got money and influence and they have brought me friends. When I came here I hadn't nothing but a dollar. (rise) But in gettin' to be what he is, a man should never forget what he was.

Bud

You might try.

Tim

(turns to him) You have fought in the ring. Bud, and you was a

a champion once and you know that no matter how game a man may be, some time he will get a beating that he never forgets. It breaks his ~~spirit~~ spirit and takes the heart out of him, he is no better than a third rater.

Bud

Well?

Tim

Well, I got mine.

Latimer

(enters arch R) Miss Desmond wants to know if she can see you, sir.

Tim

(hesitates an instant) Send her here. (Latimer exits arch)

Bud

(grabs hat from table) Well, I'm goin'. (starts)

Tim

Aint you goin' to stay and meet the lady?

Bud

Not on your life, any house what's got a chap---er ong aint no place for me. Lemme go. (exits L)

Kate

(enter quickly arch R goes to C look expectantly about, turns and sees Tim, smiles and comes down behind him)

Tim

(sees her reflection in the mirror) Kate! (starts and turns to her)

Kate

Tim (holds out both hands)

Tim

(goes to her and shakes hands) Well, well Kate. I'm glad to see you once more. It is a long time since we met.

Kate

Fifteen years, ah, I was twenty five then

Tim

And I was thirty five and now I'm fifty

Kate

But they say a man is only as old as he feels. M

Tim

and a woman as old as she looks. I am fifty at any rate and you are still twenty five. (they go C)

Kate

(laughs) Ah, Tim, you haven't forgotten how to flatter a woman. (sits L of table)

Tim

Sure, I haven't. I was only when I saw you just now that I remembered to tell the truth.

Kate

Didn't you receive my letter from Paris?

Tim

Yes, I put it aside to think it over, and this election business drove it out of my mind.

Kate

Then you must know how anxious I have been. I decided to bring Nellie straight to you, and we sailed the day after the letter was mailed.

Tim

And do you think that she loves this young man, King?

Kate

I don't know, he followed us all over Europe and she seemed to enjoy his company (goes to him) Tim I have done my best for the child since she was five years old, but you are her father and in a case like this you should act, not I?

Tim

If the boy is honest and square she can have him and every dollar I've got to. but if he aint worthy of my gal, he can't have her if he could give her a million.

Kate

I will call her now (starts)

Tim

Not yet (she steps R C) Tell me is the girl kie---like her mother?

Kate

No Tim, she will never cause you any unhappiness.

Tim

Thank God for that, all these years I have sort of counted on her to bring me happiness I missed in my younger days, and it would come hard to be disappointed again

Kate

She thinks of you as a loving grateful child this of one who as made her whole life bright and joyous, and when she speaks of you it is with her knees praying God to bless her dear Father.

Tim

To bless her dear father (pauses hand over eyes, sits L of table, pause then recovers himself) Kate, folks here would laugh if you told them I was a religious man or a prayin' man. I aint been inside of a church since---(pause then sighs) Well, since I've lived alone. But I never lay down at nights that I don't sayin "God guard my baby girl until I hold her in my arms again" and somehow I think he heard me because I didn't ask othin' for myself.

Kate

Yes, Tim, I am sure he heard you.

Tim

Kate, what is Nellie goin' to think of me?

Kate

(lays hand on shoulder) I've known what you are all these years, Tim As for the place she is delighted with the people, especially your friend Mr. Sheehan.

Tim

(looks quickly at her) Did she see Bud?

Kate

Yes. (they exchange looks and both laugh) His roughness and ignorance amuses her. She said "Why, Auntie, he is like the brown bear in the Paris circus."

Tim

Does she call you Auntie?

Kate

Yes.

Tim

I'm sorry for that.

Kate

(draws back slightly hurt) I did not think that you would mind.

Tim

It might be hard for her to get used to a new name in case that you was promoted to a new relationship (nudges her with elbow)

Kate

(bursts out laughing Jim joins her) We are a couple of old fools. (goes to right, laughing and wiping eyes)

Tim

(going L aside) If Bud had seen me then.

Nellie

(enters Arch R) Auntie, where are you? (sees Tim and stops) Oh I beg your pardon. (Tim turns expectantly towards her)

Kate
Come here dear. (Nellie goes to her) Don't you now who this is.
(indicating Tim)

Nellie
(looks at Tim puzzled) No How should I know?

Kate
Think Nellie, doesn't he resemble some one, isn't he like some one you have seen before?

Nellie
Some one I have seen before? I don't think so (looks doubtfully at Tim, then suddenly) Why of course, how stupid of me not to see the resemblance. You are Mr. Sheehan's brother. (goes to Tim with offered hand, Tim has started forward, stops short and then slowly drops head)

Kate
Nellie---

Tom
(looks up quickly and motions to silence, looks at Nellie an instant slowly takes her hand, pats it a little and then drops it, turns L)

Kate
Nellie, Oh Nellie (starts toward her)

Tim
(turns quickly and motions her back, she stops C. Nellie goes L) Would you mind leaving her alone with me? I want to speak to her about her father. (Kate bows her head and goes up R) Come back in five minutes (Kate looks at him he lays finger on his lips she exits arch Tim looks at Nellie and goes down behind table) won't you sit over there. (indicates chair L of table, goes L stops struck by Nellie's manner.)

Nellie
Why do you look at me so?

Tim
I was trying to realize that you are Tim Mayo's child.

Nellie
Am I not like him?

Tim
(shakes his head) No you ain't like him. Not one bit like him (goes R of table) Do you mind sitting there, nearer to me. Do you think that you would know your father if you saw him?

Nellie
I am sure of it. I have always pictured him in my mind and Aunti has told me so much about him.

Tim
What has she told you?

Nellie
She told me of his early struggles, how he worked and deprived himself that I might have all that he had lacked. How he came out here to build a home and fortune for his child.

Tim
(turns to her) and he has done it. Don't forget that. You are the daughter of a senator of a millionaire (a trifle bountifully)

Nellie
(rise) I don't care so much for that, so long as he is a gentleman as father of whom I can be proud

Tim
(aside bitterly) A gentleman. (aloud going to R of table and speaking with amused lightness) I spose now that you would be pretty sore if you had come all the way from Europe to find a father like---well, like Mr. Sheehan for instance.

Nellie
(laughs) Like Mr. Sheehan!

Tim

He's not much like the picture you have of your father, is he?

Nellie

No, no. Why if he were standing among strangers my heart would tell me who he was for I need only to lay my arm around the neck of him who looked the noblest of all to find my father.

Tim

Don't be too sure. The father that you have pictured may be mighty different from the man you will meet. But that aint his fault you know. He was only common and ignoratn but he loved his child.

Nellie

(rises) But why do you speak of all this to me? To hear you one would almost imagine that you were pleading for your self.

Tim

I am pleading for your father.

Nellie

You are assumning both the right and the necessity.

Tim

Maybe so but then I know better than you just how great Tim Mayo's need is. I know that if he d sappoints you, if he hurts you, it will break his heart.

Nellie

He can never do that, what do you mean?

Tim

(hesitates then turns toward her) He aint like your picture. He aint one bit like the man you have in mind. He is the ignorant common, and not what you call a getnelamn, but he is yourfather and he has done his best the best he knew how (goes to her) Nellie Child don't be hard with him, don't expect too much of a man who has worked hard to make you what you are, that he aint had time to make anything of himself, only try to love him just a little---and ferggve him.

Nellie

(looking wonderingly at him) Why, there are tears in your eyes. (suddenly taking step toward him) Who are you?

Tim

(looks at her an instant, then slowly and pleadingly holds out his hands she looks at him in amazement, still not realizing who he is draws back a little)

Latimer

(enters with Kate) Mr. Mayo---

Nellie

(after an instant pause) What---did he call you?

Tim

(slowly) He called me by my name (Nellie utters awe and down on couch) You have seen what I am, and now you must know who I am. I am Tim Mayo keeper of a gambling house where sqaure men bet their money on a sqaure game. I am Tim Mayo who came here without a dollar and made a million through hustling and hard work and thereaint one dollar of it that I am ashamed of. I have never done a mean thing, nor a false thing, nor a cruel thing. I am all this and---your father. (Nellie on coache looking straight ahead as if hardly realizing what he is saying, Tim takes a step toward her) Nellie Child, won't you kiss me. (Hesitation) She suddenly breaks down and hides her face in her hands, Tim slowly drops his head then pulls himself together and looks up) What---what were saying, Latimer?

Latimer

A telephone message for you, sir. Wanted at the place.

Tim

Wanted---by the bartenders and faro dealers and gamblers. (looks at Nellie then rouses himself) All right I'll go the place since

9
I aint wanted here. (goes slowly up L & and exits arch L as curtain falls)

CURTAIN

ACT TWO

(SCENE. The same as Act One afternoon of the same day, discovered at rise Tim seated back of table writing a letter. Kate seated sewing. Tim writes and finishes letter sings name)

Tim

There is some class to that eh?

Kate

Why, Tim this won't do.

Tim

Superfine linen bond, the best money can buy, just the thing for a society correspondence.

Kate

But the heading. (reads) T. Mayo ales, wines liquors cigars .

Tim

Sure Latimer had a lot of cheap lookin' paper without no pr tin' on it. So I brought that over from the place. I'll bet even the swellest society don't often see the letter head with four colors.

Kate

(reads and laughs) Sure they don't---there Tim, I'll give you some paper that will be more suitable (puts letter on table)

Tim

All right Kate (rises) I am only breakin' in to society and some one must keep cases for me.

Kate

You should have learned the game sooner.

Tim

They wouldn't let me but chips (goes L) I was a gambler and not good enough for them

Kate

But you are still in that business.

Tim

Oh its making no difference now. When a common man puts a ten dollar note on the ace its gamblin' and society gives him the cold shoulder But when a senator calls the turn for a thousand, its a gentleman's diversion and society is glad to be entertained on his winnings. They used to come and sit at my faro table, but I couldn't go and sit at their dinner table till now. (goes L)

Kate

If you feel that way why do you accept the invitation?

Tim

(turns) For the same reason that they sent it, because I can use them in my business. I've got money, position, political power, that is what they want. They've got votes, that is all that I want of them Besides, I've another reason.

Kate

What is it?

Tim

(come down to table) Its Nellie. I want her to feel that I am somebody in my business. I want to show her that she is as good as their daughters. Let me see her Paris clothes and her diamonds.

Kate

Diamonds? Nellie has no diamonds.

Tim

She will have them for I've twenty thousand dollars worth in my safe. right now.

Kate

But, Tim, young girls don't wear diamonds.

Tim

Tim

Tim- No? (pause) Well then you can wear them (comes around in front of table) Say Kate when you put on a tairia y8ve got it You'll look like a electric lighter merry go round gshe laughs he is taking out watch) I wonder what keeps Latimer. I sent him to see about my clothes.

Kate

Clothes?

Tim

Yes, my dress suit needed pressin'. The last time I wore it was my only appearance in society, till this come (picks up invitation)

Kate

When was that?

Tim

Two years ago at the masquerade ball of the gasfitters union. It's a fine suit, and have a swell pinktie to wear with it.

Kate

a pink tie to wear with an evening suit? (suppressed laughter) I thought they usually wore white ones.

Tim

Lord no at that ball only the waiters wore white ones.

Kate

(puts skien of yarn on table and speak s seriously) Tim, would you be offended if I were to make a little suggestion once in a while?

Tim

Nekwhat about?

Kate

About---about certain things---that would please Nellie.

Tim

(looks at her quickly) I understand, I aint what you would call a gentleman, the child herself showed me that, two hours ago.

Kate, if there is anythin that you can that would make me pass for a gentleman sometimes, I know it will please Nellie, and I'll try mighty hard to learn.

Kate

You shall not speak of yourself like that, you are the best, truest and most generous man in all the world. (goes to him and gives him both hands)

Tim

Kate---don't you ever get tired of playing a lone hand?

Kate

I don't kno what you mean.

Tim

Wheil you were over there inEuerope among all of them Lords and Earls and Dukes---and other sure thing men, did any of them try to cash a bet.

Kate

Cash a bet?

Tim

Yes, didn't you have any offers to become an earl--less or a lordess at the market price.

Kate

But I don't care for foreign titles.

Tim

Well---ar don't you---don't you think you could be satisfied with a husband who was stamped "Made in the U.S X." (pause) For Nellie's sake and mine.

Kate

Well not so much for Nellies sake or for you s, I might for my own. (turns to him)

Tim
(throws arms around her neck) America wins! (stoops to kiss her, she laughs and attempts to draw back, he catches her, and kisses her)

Nellie
(enters arch just in time to see them kiss) Aunti (comes down R looking at them in astonishment, Tim and Kate try to separate. Tim looks at Nellie) Auntie, you are blushing.

Kate
Nonsense, I hadn't done such a thing for fifteen years.

Nellie
No? (suddenly) Isn't it just fifteen years since you last saw my father.

Tim
Ahem!

Nellie
Welll.

Nellie
Well it has been a long time, between (goes to her with a mock seriousness when a woman blushes only once in fifteen years there is something the matter with her heart.

Bud
(enters Arch) Say there is a guy down here from the tailors with your open face suit.

Tim
All right (Kate and Nellie X'ing R) OI'll be right back. (Nellie and Kate L conversing, aside Bud starts to exit R Tim takes him by the arm) Bud, you entertain the ladies while I'm gone.

Bud
What me?

Tim
Sure.

Bud
Nothin' doin'.

Tim
(holds him by L arms swing him around and gets on side) Go on now, you have got to get used to it, want you to be a gent?

Bud
(aside) How the hell do I know, I never tried.

Tim
It is a cinch just talk easy and natural like, I'll be right back.
(exit R)

Bud
(aside looking at Kate and Nellie) Gee I have fought Dutchmen, Irish, dagoes, and niggers, but this is the first time I was in the ring agin' a chaperone. Easy natural like, eh? All right. (comes down R) Whew! Here is where I can throw stuff and hand out the gneteel salve. (pulls down cuffs settles collar and tie, coughs and then speaks with great politeness) Well, Mrs. how is they comin' (Kate and Nellie turn to him) Sit down galls, de seat is free, and de big show goin' on all de time. (Pulls forward chair L of table Nellie and Kate laugh and show amusement, but at the same time interested)

Kate
Tank you Mr. Sheehan (sits L of table Nellie on couch)

Bud
Now the both of yo se has had a long tirlp now what do you say to taking something.

Kate
Taking a little something?

Bud
Yes, something too cool youse off and wash de cinders out of your pipe.
(Nellie laughs) Ain she a dream? (leans back in chair) Being a gent

is a cinch. (to Kate) He do you thank the the old sport is looking?

Kate

Whom?

Bud

Why Tim

Kate

I think he is loo ing very well indeed.

Tim

Aint he though? And say though he is just as fine as he looks. (leans forward speaking to Nellie) If there is one white man on this earth it is your father kid.

Nellie

You know him very well don't you?

Bud

Do I?? Do you'se see that right arm of mine (stretches out arm) I it won me de championship once, and a thousand dellas, but if it would do your father any good, I'd chop it off at de shoulder. Dats how well I know Tim Mayo (smokes) Was him dat made a man out of me.

Kate

Would you mind telling us about it?

Bud

Well, it aint a pretty story when I first met Tim I was nothing but a bum down and out.

Kate

There must be some ununsaul reas n for that.

Bud

No othin' ununsaul only a skirt. (lays cigar on table rises and goes R) It was in Frisco when I was champion, that is where I meets this dame---I meant his ---lady.

Kate

Lady?

Bud

No no no, this woman. One of them kind that just has to give a man one look and he's knocked cold, well, I fell for this pretty dame and fell good and strong too. Money? I was simply padded with long green backs and she took it off me so fast that I ketched cold.

Nellie

and you allowed that?

Bud

I couldn't help it, I was big and strong, but that kind of strength aint no good again soft hands and dark hair (goes C)

Kate

I see---go on Mr Sheehan

Bud

Well one day she skiedoes she skipped out with me manager on a stea er for Japan and took me money, diamonds everything (pause) And she too k my heart along with the rest. (goes R of table)

Kate

(rises) And it was then that you met Mr Mayo, and he helped you? (goes around behind table)

Bud

Yes for a year I wane down, I landed here broke, Tim got me a fight at his club with a second rater. I can see the club house now packed to the wall---I was still the champion and they ho llered the selves hoars when I climbed into the ring (excitedly goes down R of tabel)

Nellie

And then.

Bud

I had gone to far to co e back, it went nine rounds---and

I wasn't champion any longer (dumps hear pause)

Nellie

(goes L of table) I'm sorry that you lost.

Bud

(looks at her) That's like Tim's kid to say that for when the crowd was hollerin' and whoopin' around the new Champion and I lay in my corner forgotten it was Tim that slapped me on the back and says you made a game fight old sprot, come along with me I couldn't see him but his hand was the only one in all that crowd that was reached out to me. (passes hand across eyes and goes in front of table)

Kate

(comes down on his R) And you have been together ever since?

Bud

Ever since, lady it was him that took me, a drunken broken down fighter and made a man out of me, a man that can never stand here and talk to youse two (goes L turns) Well it is all over, now would you 'se two like to go out and see the town with ehred devil?

Nellie

With whom?

Bud

Me automobile, I've got a sixty horse power machine what will climb a telgraph pole and come down on the other side.

Nellie

(delighted) Oh! (goes to him)

Bud

I know that I am kind of a stwey looking party but I mean allright and if you 'se will let me, I am going to give you the best time that I know (goes to Kate L of table standing between she and Nellie) How are you 'se on?

Kate

(laughs) Gladly Mr Sheehan (Tim enters arch R sees them and stops in amazement)

Bud

All right from this time de tree of us is all good past together. (holds out hand to each whitch they take he sseems Tim who comes down R) Hello Tim

Tim

(as de as Bud goes to him Kate and Nellie go up L) You seem to be ge gattin' along pretty good.

Bud

Oh fine, he kid is a perfect little lady, and tthe other says she is a peach.

Tim

She may be a peach, but you sta out of my orchard.

Bud

(looks at him) Say you don't mean that.

Tim

(winks and taps himself on breast and nods) Savvy!

Bud

What already?

Tim

Right off the bat.

Bud

(grabs his hand and shakes it vigorously) Say you are too damned lucky. Wait till I go tell the gang (exit arch R)

Tim

How did you enjoy Bud's society?

Kate

(comes down back of table) Oh Tim he is a perfect dear (laughs)

Tim

And does Nellie thin that I am like

Nellie
(shyly) In that way, yes.

Latimer
(entre s arch L) Mr Douglas King has just arrived sir.

Nellie
Oh surprised and delighted, turns toward entrance, Tim and Kate look L.
King
(enter s quickly arch L goes to Nellie and takes her hand then A's to Kate and shakes her hand)

Kate
Why Mr King

King
A surprise is it not? But I sailed from Harva the same day that you sailed from Liveroppell we arrived in New York on the same day and here I am only one train behind you

Tim
That's what you might call some going. (King looks at him)

Kate
(indicating Tim) Nellie's father, Mr Mayo this is M King (King goes to him and holds out hand)

Tim
I always look a man in the eye before I take his hand and I am mighty glad to shake yours (shake hands)

King
Thank you Mr Mayo (Kate and Nellie seemed pleased go to L C)

Tim
So you are old John King's son? Well you have a fine father.

King
Do you know him?

Tim
We met once, I did a little business for him years go, in fact I helped out of hole in a way

King
Indeed?

Tim
Yes he fell into it while I was digging a sewer in front of his bank (King laughs, Kate and Nellie a little ashamed of this)

King
He should be grateful for that.

Tim
Oh he was when I scraped the mud off his pants he give me a dollar. I bought little Nellie a pair of pink shoes with it. Do you remember those little pink shoes Nellie.

Nellie
I---I think so. (King goes to her)

Tim
You ought to for you were so proud of them that you went to be diw th the on. (laughs King and Nellie talking aside) And I remember another time when I didn't have a dollar---(looks at them, sees King holding Nellie hand exchanges looks with Kate aside) I guess that I forgot what I just remembered (goes up R turns) Kate! (beckons her she goes up him) I've got some socks that need mendin so you may as well come and begin on the job (exit arch R.)

Nellie
(X and sits on sofa) Now tell me did you enjoy your European trip?

King
(goes up behind table) It was delightful---until you left.

Nellie
Now isn't that odd, I didn't myself one bit either after that.

King
But tell me how do you like it here?

Nellie

Its beginning to be very pleanant here. (glances at him and then looks away) I hope that you are going to like it here.

King

Oh I am. I new that I could the moment I saw you here.

Nellie

I like any place where you are and every place seems dull, lonesome unbearable without you. Is that the way you feel about me? (takes her hand which is lying on table)

King

I don't know---(rises from table)

No you see you didn't give me a chance to know what any place would be like without you

King

then perhaps I had better leave this place (starts L)

Nellie

No no don't do that (she stops and looks at her) then that if---if you go away now when you have just arrived, it would be unkind to father,

King

Oh well then perhaps I ought to stay a while to please you father (comes back slowly)

Nellie

Yes, and he was so glad to see you. I think that you should stay a good long while to

King

I'll stay till he puts me out. (comes down in front of table)

Nellie

(goes to table speakin' hastily) Oh he would never do that. He always lets me have anything that I want (stops and turns away confused)

King

(leans forward and seizes her left hand in both of his) And do you want me? (pause she hangs her head) Nellie dear, its just too asks you that I've come cross the land. I have followed you out here to ask you home to tell you how I want you and to ask your father if I can't have you. (she tears hand away and goes R hand of table standing with back on him) I've followed you here to tell you that I love you, and I ~~only~~ ~~safe~~ would have followed you here to or around the world and back to hear you say that you loved me? (goes to her)

Nellie

What*--whats the use of going all around the world just for that?

King

Then say it now dear.

Nellie

I don't know how.

King

Say, "Douglass, I love you" (puts arm around her)

Nellie

Douglas---I---I it is such a funny thing to say to a man.

King

Say it sweetheart, Douglas, I---

Nellie

Douglas I--

King

I love you

Nellie

I---I (hesitates) Won't it do just as well at first if--if instead of saying it---I were to do it (he turns her to him, kisses her, she hides her face on his shoulder, half crying half laughing his arms arounds her)

Tim
 enters arch R w th Kate, stops and looks at them) Another ball of
 yarn tangled up ahem (goes to L C w th Kate Nellie starts away and goes
 up R/ Mr. King.

King
 Yes sir.

Tim
 If you are ready, I will show you to your room.

King
 My room?

Tim
 Yes, I have sent for your baggage you will stay here with us now.
 (glancing at Nellie, lays a hand on his shoulder)

King
 (delighted) Mr. Mayo I'll guess you know what I mean, and how I feel.

Tim
 You will feel at home my boy I hope so, so come along (turns R)

Nellie
 Oh but wait a moment (Tim stops) Mr King has something of a special
 nature to say first.

Tim
 Hasn't he said it yet?

Nellie
 Well, not to you

Tim
 Well Mr King

King
 (nervously * Well sir I--I have something to say and I will say it
 in as few words as possible.

Tim
 Kate, you had better sit down, this is going to be a protracted session
 (sits L of table Kate laughs and sits on couch, Nellie comes
 down R C and motions encouragement to Kin)

King
 You see---Nellie and I (glances at her) Nellie and I have---that
 is we have had --

Tim
 Yes I saw what you had when I came in

King
 I have asked Nellie---and---I want to ask you if---if I were to
 ask you what --what I have asked Nellie---

Nellie
 (impatiently) You didn't ask me like that at all, I'll ask him myself.

Tim
 Go as far as you like, my child. What is it that you want M

Nellie
 It is nothing at all to make such a fuss about, its only Douglas.

King
 Mr. Mayo, I have told Nellie that I love her, and that I want to marry
 her.

Tim
 (pauses, becomes serious looks up) What does Nellie say?

Nellie
 Well he has followed me here, and he says he will follow me every
 where else so I thought that if we were going the same way all
 our life we might as well go together.

Tim
 (looks at her slowly, rises and holds out hand to her) (she
 comes to him, hangs her head, he puts his hand under her chin and raises
 her face to his) Yes like yours don't lie, the love that is shining

is mirrored right from your heart, and it is all for him, all for him
 (puts hand on head and gently strokes her hair) All that I ask
 is that you let your old father add to your happiness if he can
 (gently kiss her face, passes her to King he takes diamond ring from
 pocket and puts it on her finger Tim calls him) Oh Douglas
 (king eos to him) Here. (takes two keys from pocket) That's the key
 to the front door (gives him both keys)

King

What's the other (holding up second key)

Tim

That's the key to the wine cellar. Winks and motions for him to
 follow exit arch R King starts to follow)

Nellie

(turns) Oh Douglas (he stops up R she goes to C back of table) m
 When your things come, put on that tie I like you know the lavender.

King

All right, dear (turns to go)

Nellie

And Douglas (getting a littler nearer to him dancing back at Kate
 who takes book from table, pretending not to notice them,
 You had better leave that key with me (he gives her key) I don't
 want the front door key (hold out her hand, he gives her other key)
 And Douglas, go and---(raises exit arch R Nellie runs to Kate and
 impulsively throws arms around her neck almost upsetting her) Oh
 mamma.

Kate

Nellie, dear.

Nellie

(taking her around to chair R of table) Now come here and sit down.
 (Kate sits) And I will make a bargain with you.

Kate

A bargain-- about what?

Nellie

I'll tell you everything that Douglas said if you will tell
 me everything that papa said.

Kate

Nonsense.

Nellie

May e it seem so to you because you are used to it. This is
 my first. (sits on arm of table) Oh dear think of all the fun I have
 missed accept my first proposal (sighs)

Kate

My dear, you are very young, one of the first things that
 a girl should learn that a ring on her finger is worth a dozen in
 the jewelers shop.

Nellie

(holds out her hand looking at ring) Yes I suppose it is sort
 of outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Its too
 bad I can only wear one though

Kate

When you are married you can wear as many as you wish

Nellie

But they will be just common diamonds not engagement rings (lifts
 Kate's hand and look at her ring) Yours is a lovely too Oh dear it
 is a great responsibility or a girl to have an engaged mother.

Kate

But I am not your mother.

Nellie

You have always been to me. I could not have more tender love care
 even from my own dear mother, had she lived auntie, did you know her

very well

very well?

Kate

No, I twas only a short time after I met her that she---was taken away.?

Nellie

Am I like her?

Kate

Like her? (rises quickly) No, no not in looks or in mind nor in--- (checks herself) No you are not her in anything (goes L)

Nellie

(surprised) You speak as though you were glad of that. Don't you think that Fatehr would be glad if I reminded him of her?

Kate

(in low tones) I think---he does not want to be reminded of he r.

Nellie

I understadn. Even ow he cannot forget her love.

Kate

I don't see how any man could forget such love (goes slowly up L)

Nellie

(rises and goes to her) Ah, but he will have you now, and you must m make him try to forget.

Kate

(comes down L with her) I wish I could dear. (sighs)

Nellie

Perhaps you can, you will take herplace and so everything she used to do, you will love him, honor him even as she honored him, andecling to him even as she did till death parted them.

Kate

Nellie, Nellie, do not talk like this.

Nellie

Forgive me. You don't like to talk of her.

Kate

It---it is better not.

Nellie

Then you will never speak of of her again, for I can never do anything to give you pain. I k ow that she was the sweet and good and loving and true, and you are just like her (Kate DXto R) There, we will talk of omething else. Something that will interest you. (goes to her) Lets talk about father. (kate laughs) Do you know that I believe I could learn to love him.

Kate

Really?

Nellie

It can't be very difficult, since you did, I feel toady as if I could love everybody, (hugs her)

Kate

Douglas would object to that.

Nellie

Do you think that he is going to be Myrannical?

Kate

About your love, yes. He will want all that for himself.

Nellie

I suppose so, men are so selfish. Come along don't lets talk about them anymore. (starts to take her up R)

Kate

Where are you going?

Nellie

To lock ourselves in your room and discuss the most important thing of in a whoman's life.

Kate

Is there anything any more important to a girl than the man

she is going to marry?

Nellie

Well, I should hope so.

Kate

There is? What?

Nellie

What she is going to wear when she marries him. (they start R but stop on hearing Latimer's voice)

Durenll

(enter arch L quickly followed by Latimer, stops on seeing Kate and Nellie, Latimer stop C) I beg your pardon if I intruded. I came to see Mr Mayo.

Nellie

This is my father's place of business. It is we who were intruding.

Durnell

(up C) Pardon me, your father you said?

Nellie

Yes.

Latimer

(introducing) Mrs Desmond, Miss Mayo---Mr Durnell (come Nellie. (Nellie and Kate exit Arch R)

Tim

(enters arch R stops up R C) Mr. Latimer---

Latimer

Yes sir.

Tim

If Mr Durnell has finished his business with you, show him to the door.

Durenll

(goes up L of table) My business is with you. (Latimer starts to exit L with letters in hand)

Tim

You can stay Latimer, Mr Durenall is going immediately.

Latimer

I have these letters to mail sir (Tim goes down R) Mr Durnell---

Durenll

Yes.

Latimer

Pardon my question just now, they were merely from idle curiosity. (exit Arch L)

Durenll

(looks after him) I wonder if they were (turns to Tim) I just called at the place to see you

Tim

Did you?

Durenll

But even if you had been there, we should have had to come here to talk.

Tim

Oh would we?

Durenll

What I have to say can't be said in six roulette wheels going and a crowd ten feet deep around the faro tables.

Tim

George, you know me pretty well. You know that you can't make a bet at my tables nor even drink at my bar. You ought to know that you can't talk to me in my own house. (crosses L in front of table)

Durnell

(C back of table) Wait a minute. (Tim stops) Mayo, you will make the mistake of your life if you don't listen to me for five minutes.

Tim

You will make the mistake of your life if you don't get out of here in five seconds.

Durnell

All right (takes hat and goes to arch L Tim goes up back of table Durnell stops and turns) Oh by the way, I met your daughter here just now. (Tim stops) Do you expect her mother also?

Tim

(turns and looks at him an instant) Her mother is dead.

Durnell

Too bad. It would have gratified her pired to see you in the senate, if you get there.

Tim

(solewly takes out roll of bills counts off several) There is \$5000 to say that I get there. Are you on?

Durnell

No. (Tim smiles, pockets money and goes R around table Durnell comes down) Mayo, do you remeber when you first met me?

Tim

Yes. It was when young Moran fought English Smith at my clubhere. You had Moran fixed to lay down, and you bet your head off on the Englishman.

Durnell

You were refereee, and you no ified both boyys that if the did not fight on the levl you would throw them out of the ring and they would not get a cent.

Tim

AA ann who runs a brace game for two dollar bets, wouldn't turn down \$50000 You are a crooked gambler and that is the meanest thing on earth. (strikes table) Now as you are tryin't obbluff me you can get action for all that you have got. Show your pile, and I will cover it in ten seonds. I'll time you five that I get the nomination.

Durnell

I am not after any best. I am after the nomination myself.

Tim

(turns and loo s at him, slight pause) Are you crazy, or just plain drunk?

Durnell

Oh I know you have got the notes in your pocket and those delgate will do as you say.

Tim

You bet they will, for I wonevery one of them Why-- they would nominat3 a yellow dog---they'd nominate you if I told them to. (laughs)

Durnell

And that is just what you will do. (goes L)

Tim

(looks at him in amazement) What's the matter with you ? Have you been hittin' the pipe.

Durnell

Sittdown and I will tell you

Tim

sits right of table) I thought I'd close every dope joint in town well let us have your dream Geo.

Durnell

what would you take to swing the convention over to me and give me the nomination.

Tim

Oh you want to put me off no hin ' doin' aint for sale.

Durnell

You are very particular for a man who byas other mens vot.

Tim
You could do the same if you had the price.

Durnell
Then are you any better than I?

Tim
I should hope so.

Durnell
In what way?

Tim
If you could buy them votes, you would use them as you used the loaded dice and the marked cards, the squeeze box in your gamblin' house-- to steal every dollar in sight. I'm doing public service when I buy vote because it prevents men like you from gettin' them.

Durnell
You had better be careful in dealing with me, Mayo.

Tim
I am. (puts hand in pocket) I have got one hand on my money and the other on my gun

Durnell
I town't do any good to quarrel, I have come here to you with a plain proposition.

Tim
And you have got a plain answer---I aint for sale.

Durnell
Not at any ordinary price perhaps.

Tim
Not at any price.

Durnell
Are you quite sure?

Tim
(looking pateince) Yes I am sure. (rises) For years I have panned and worked and fought and bought to git on the top I aint goin' to fall down now, for all the money in Nevada (goes R)

Durnell
(goes to front in^dC of table) Mayo, you have fought me defeated me ever since I came here, you ran against me for sheriff, you won, you ran for Mayor against me an won, now you are against me for senator but you will lose (stikes table)

Tim
(turns) Will I? You are right when you say I fought you and won and do you know why? (goes close to him) Because I am on the level and you are a crook. (Durnell starts lightly and clinches fists, restrains himself) I have used crooks weapons to fight a crook at my own expense and his game, but when other men are in my game, I give 'em a square deal. (Durnell looks at him an instant then goes up L) Wait a moment. (Durnell stops and turns) It has come to a show down between us Durnell You come here to try and run a bluff, now I am going to call you and don't you get away till you have shown your hand.

Durnell
All right, you said just now that you would not give up for all the money in Nevada. I was not going to offer you money.

Tim
You had better not. (goes R of table)

Durnell
To avert sorrow, shame disgrace for one you love is worth more than money to you.

Tim
What do you mean by shame, disgrace, what dirty trick are you trying? Out with it, I'll face it.

Durnell

Durnell
And ---and your daughter (Tim starts) How will she face it? (goes R of Table)

Tim
Leave her name out of this or I'll---(goes to him with clinched fists)

Durnell
(quietly) You will do nothing (Tim slowly lowers his fist)
She is innocent, refined sensitive, your disgrace would be hers.

Tim
If you say that in some shameful act in my life, one man can bring shame on me, you lie.

Durnell
I did not say that it was a man (Door bell rings both listen an instant) Mayo, will you resign the nomination for me?

Tim
No

Durnell
I offer you a price for consenting. You will pay a heavier one if you refuse.

Tim-Latimer
(outside) Mr Mayo is busy now (Durnell goes up and looks off L)

Nance
(outside) He is not be busy to see me (Tim starts at voice but doesn't recognize first looks off L)

Latimer
(outside) You must wait till---stop you can not go in there.

Oh g Nance
Oh get out of my way. (enter quickly arch L followed by Latimer, she comes L C Latimer goes back of table Durnell goes down L of Nance Tim R of table he and Nance look at each other for an instant before she speaks) Well, Tim, how are you?

Tim
(starts violently as she enters gazes at her in stupefied silence and instant looks slowly from her to Durnell and back again, whispers as if dazed) Nance---Nance Mayo (pauses then suddenly burst out) No no she is dead.

Nance
Is she? Take another look.

Tim
(gazes at her spellbound) Nance---my wife---alive (staggers back Latimer goes quickly to him and helps him to chair-R of table he sits a moment as if stunned, looks slowly to Nance then at Latimer speaks with difficulty in low tone.) Mr Latimer please leave the room---and lock that door, (point to R Latimer exits arch R, sound of door being closed and locked outside)

Durnell
(after slight pause) Won't you sit down---Mrs. Mayo?

Tim
(starts on hearing sound of her name, rises as she sits chair L of table Tim looks at Durnell) So---this is what you meant.
(points to Nance*)

Durnell
Yes.

Tim
I---I understand. (aside turning away) Poor Nellie! (Stiffles sob passes hand across eyes they look Durnell) Have you any more to say to me?

Durnell
Presently. I'll smoke a cigar on the balcony (goes up L turns)

Talk to her first, then to me. (exit balcony D)

Tim

(Looks at Nance, she does not look at him aside) My God. (goes up R and stands with head bowed and back to her)

Nance

(after a moments pause, glances around at him shrugs shoulders, takes book from table, turns over leaves for an instant, look at him again then throws book impatiently on table going in from table stops and picks up Tim's old pipe looks at it, then holds it out at arms length.) Lord I wish that I had a cigarette to kill the odor of that thing. (puts pipe on table near chair R and goes L and faces Tim) Well haven't you anything to say to me?

Tim

(comes down R C) It was you who spread the false report?

Nance

It was a young doctor in London, who took a fancy to me, and to throw you off the track he gave my name to an unknown woman in the hospital. She died, I lived and enjoyed life. (sits in chair L of table)

Tim

Where?

Nance

Where? Oh Paris St Petersburg, Hong Kong, Manila everywhere

Tim

(goes R of table) And ---and how?

Nance

(looks at him) How does any woman who leave her husband to gain luxuries he could not give her (rises impatiently) Well that is how I lived.

Tim

(aside brokenly) My wife---my wife. (bows head)

Nance

(turns) But I am tired of it. I have- am tired of humoring men, whom I hate, of wheeling fools that I despise, I've had all the money that I wanted, jewelry luxury, I've seen the world till I don't want to see any more. (goes down L)

Tim

(looks up) And now that you've seen all and know all you crown your shame by exhibiting it to me.

Nance

(wearily) Oh drop that Sunday School nonsense, I didn't know that you were alive till I landed here last night I heard in Frisco that this was a live town and I thought that I might find some easy money, that's all. (sits on couch)

Nance Tim

How did you meet Durnell?

Nance

Over a drink at the hotel. He spoke of Tim Mayo, Tim Mayo the mine owner. Tim Mayo the richest man in town one drink lead to another till--- well I told him who I was---

Nance Tim

And now that you have found me, what do you want of me?

Nance

I want a home for the rest of my life.

Tim

You had a home once (goes R C)

Nance

Yes, three rooms on the top floor of a tenement house full of crying babies, quarrelling women, and family washing? Ughh!

Tim

That's kind of honesty is a useless ornament in the house where there is not much of anything else, most women would pass honestly coming

in the door such as it was, it was your home, our home. This is my home now, and it can never be yours (comes down R)

Nance

Good lord I don't want a home with you in it. Why you would be very ornamental (becomes serious) Tim I am getting older and I can't stand the racket any longer. Sometimes in my heart (stops suddenly watching her breath and puts hand over heart, gives exclamation pain and sits a moment with closed eyes breathing heavily then recovers) That was worse---then usual, the dobro says that it will be my--- finish. (rarse) Oh if I could only get rest---rest--

Tim

(aside looking at her) Rest.

Nance

You will give me enough to live on.

Tim

Yes only go---go

Nance

All right I'll go. There is a train east tonight at midnight, send me some money to the hotel. (Tim silently bows his head in assent--sh pauses) Well good bye (goes up L suddenly) Tim

Tim

Well?

Nance

Where is Nellie?

Tim

(starts and turns suddenly) Nellie?

Nance

Yes the child, where is she?

Tim

I---I sent her to live abroad along ago.

Nance

May e I'll meet her there I---I wish that I could see her.

Tim

Why, so that she could see her mother a fallen woman. (goes up C) Have you fallen so low that you could bear to look in her innocent eyes?

Nance

You have no right to prevent me.

Tim

You have no right to bring such shame on her. Rather that see you look up on her touch er, I tell you'd pray god to take my sight from me

Nance

Well If I run across her in Europe you can very well prevent it, and if she were here now, I tell you I'd see her before I go.

(Durnell enters from balcony)

Nellie

(knocks on door outside R' May I come in? (Tim starts, all listen an instant)

Nance

Who is that? (looks from Tim to Durnell)

Durnell

(steps down between them) That's that is Mr Mayo's---T(T9im gives him a look which Nance does not see Durnell continues in ordinary tone) That is Mr. Mayo's stenographer.

Nellie

(outside) May I come in?

Tim

(trying to conceal agitation) No no not now.

Nance

She has a pretty voice. It sounds as if she were young and pretty.

Durnell

(looks steadily at Tim) She is young and pretty.

Nance

(pause a moment looking at Tim) You look rather embarrassed Tim
(laughs) I understand, I won't ask you to let me see her. Will you take me to the hotel (to Durnell)

Durnell

(goes to arch L with her and then stops) Oh by the way Mayo. here is a statement making the proposed changes in the nomination. (takes paper from pocket) You might as well sign it now. (goes to Tim and offers paper, Tim starts and looks at him) Don't hesitate, unless you want your wife to meet your pretty stenographer. The price of my silence. (Tim slowly takes papers sits down back of table and sighs, pen drops from his fingers and his head down) Thanks, now Mrs Mayo (goes to her looks at Tim) I'll present your congratulations to the next senator. (exit arch with Nance)

Tim

(strikes the table and rises suddenly) The next Senator. And I gave it up for her. For a child that didn't even know me, and when she did know me she was ashamed of me. (starts right and sees himself in the mirror over mantel, stops and looks at himself, passes hand slowly over face, and turns away to table with hopeless air) I guess she was right----after all I'd make a hell of a looking senator, anyhow. (drops despondently in chair R of table hands fall on pipe takes it up and looks at it then suddenly breaks down and drops head on arm, table shaking with sobs as curtain falls)

SCSECOND CURTAIN

(Tim as before, face hidden on arm, pipe held in fingers or right hand over edge of table As curtain descends the second time pipe slips from his fingers to the floor)

ACT THREE

(Scene, the same as act two, time evening of the same day large attigue lamp on table or chandelier over it lighted borders down to give effect of lamp lighted room, curtain at balcony opening up
 "C partly drawn aside showing moonlight effect outside; discovered at rise, Latimer seated back of table C Kate standing at balcony opening up L C hands on curtains listening to noise in street below sounds heard outside as if crowd in street jeering and hooting hisses etc with an occasional shout Mayo where is Mayo.

Voices

(in street below) Come on out Mayo He threw us down for Durnell. Tim Mayo sold out!" (louder jeers and hisses)

Kate

(quickly drops curtains close and turns) Mr. Latimer---

Latimer

Yes, Mrs. Desmond?

Kate

You hear what they are saying?

Latimer

I hear yes.

Kate

(comes down L C) It is horrible--horrible, can nothing be done? to stop those cries (sounds outside as if crowd was going away)

Latimer

(listening an instant) They have stopped, the crowd is on its way to the convention.

Kate

But what will they say? What are they saying all over town?

Latimer

They are saying that for the first time in his life, Tim Mayo has done a dishonest thing, and he betrayed those who trusted him. (rises and goes R)

Kate

How can they oh how can they? (sits L of table)

Latimer

How can they say anything else?

Kate

If they only knew the truth.

Latimer

(turns) If they knew as we do, that he has done this thing to spare his daughter the shame and disgrace of knowing her mother, that would be even harder for him to bear.

Kate

And he prefers that shame and disgrace should come to him.

Latimer

I think yes, it can only be said of him that he played a sharp political trick. Many men have done the same.

Kate

But not men like him, all his life he has had guarantee of his honest and fair dealing, why they even say in his gambling house not a dollar was ever won or lost unfairly. (rises) He gave them all a fair chance with himself, won't they give him a fair chance to.

Latimer

I am afraid no unless.

Kate

Unless what?

Latimer

(pause then speaks slowly) Unless something should happen to---remove Mr Durnell's opposition.

Kate

(goes to him) And is there any possibility of that?

Latimer

(looks at watch) The convention opens in an hour. (pause and looks at her) An hour always holds poss, Mrs Desmond. (puts watch in pocket and goes L)

Kate

(eagerly) You have some plan---you think that there is hope that Mr. Mayo can--

Latimer

(aside her looking off L) Shhh---here he is.

Tim

(enters arch L slowly with bowed head and hands clasped behind him goes down behind table C and rouses himself) Did you get that from the safe, Latimer?

Latimer

Yes sir, a thousand dollars in large bills.

Tim

And the tickets?

Latimer

I bought a ticket for New York and a state room on the midnight train.

Tim

Go to the New Grand Hotel and give the money and the ticket to the woman who was here this afternoon

Latimer

Very well. (goes up L stops) There was a telephone call from Durnell just now.

Tim

(starts slightly and then restrains himself) What does he want?

Latimer

He wants to see you.

Tim

And why?

Latimer

He did not say. He will be here on his way to the convention
You will see him

Tim

(slowly) See him. NO.

Latimer

It might be unpleasant but I think that it would be best (looks at Tim hesitates for an instant) I---I really wish that you would see him

Tim Kate

(goes to him) Perhaps it would be better that you should, Tim.

Tim

(looks from one to the other) I---I will see him

Latimer

I will return before he leaves. (exit Arch L)

Tim

(crosses to L) That's the first time that he ever advised me against my wishes, I wonder what he means?

Kate

Perhaps he thinks that he can get Mr. Durnell to withdraw his demand.

Tim

He knows better than that. Durnell holds the cards and he will play them for all that they are worth. Most likely he is coming to make further demands.

Kate

What more can we ask?

Tim

God knows, but whatever it is, I'll

give up all I own rather than let Nellie look upon that woman's face.
(sits L of table) What have you told the child?

Kate

Only what you wished. It was the hardest task of my life. (goes R of table) I told her only that something had happened that compelled you to withdraw against your consent. That for the reason there would be no engagement with Douglas King, and that you could promise nothing for the future.

Tim

What did she say?

Kate

Nothing, Tim. She only looked at me a moment and then sank on her knees beside the bed and hid her face in her hands and so I left her. (suddenly turns to him) Oh Tim, is this necessary? Must that child's heart be broken?

Tim

Better now than a worse blow in after years. The Kings are of an old proud family. Do you think that I am going to have my girl become one of them only to bear their scorn and reproach.

Kate

They need never know.

Tim

They will know, for I'll tell them (rises)

Kate

Will you tell them Nellie's mother---who she is and what she is?

Tim

Yes, I am going to write old John King and tell him the truth, if he is the man I take him for he won't blame the child, and he will take her for what she is. But until he knows, and until he shows me that the girl ain't going to be slighted and looked down upon there can be no engagement between them though it breaks their hearts and mine. (goes L.)

Kate

(rises) She has much to answer for. (goes up and stops) She leaves here tonight?

Tim

Yes, she will pass out of my life, again. After taking from it every bit of light every bit of hope (sits on couch L) I had all that any man could wish, just within my grasp and now I have nothing left---nothing.

Kate

(goes to L of table) I know, Tim, you worked to get that nomination and to lose it now is a bitter disappointment.

Tim

Taint that Nemean, my heart was set on in a way, but in losing it I've learned that it was little in comparison with other things that I have lost. I've been lonely all these years, Kate and I hoped that I was going to have some company toward the last, but it is not to be, after all.

Kate

No, Tim, its---it is not to be, it is not to be (sits L of table)

Tim

Do you remember the day you and Nellie went away? I took you to see steamer. As I kissed the little one good bye, you took a rose from the bunch you carried and gave it to me sayin' "Till we meet again."

Kate

I remember.

Tim

(goes around R of table) I took it and with it came the hope that when we did meet again there'd be no more partin' that some day I would take you and Nellie both to my home and heart and that as we watched over the

child together we might be some comfort to each other as we grew older.

Kate

I---would have tried.

Tim

(goes to table C) Kate you won't think me an old fool if I tell you something?

Kate

No, Tim, tell me.

Tim

I---I kept that rose ever since, today I took it from the place where it has lain for fifteen years and it seemed as if it might bloom again with a promise of happier times for me and Nellie (slowly draws withered rose from pocket) But it is withered and dead you see, just like the hopes I once had, (slowly crumbles and drops it)

Kate

Every life has its dead hopes, Tim but we are too old to waste time in idle regrets (Rises and goes to him) At least we can always be the same good friends as when we were young.

Tim

Always that Kate---always (grasps hands) Just true good friends that no years can change (gives her hand final shake and starts I stops)

Kate---

Kate

Yes.

Tim

I hope this won't prevent you from---from darnin' them socks of mine.

Kate

Indeed that is a privilege, I shall never give up.

Tim

I am glad of that. (pause) So that is the end of it, and we are just to be good friends (looks at her) Kate, I have been playing all my life and I have won, I've played for (comes down) But what I value most is the lesson it's taught me tonight.

Kate

Yes, Tim

Tim

For years I toiled with money and power, I built a wall around me that I thought no trouble or sorrow could pass, it served me well against men made strong through envy, ambition pride and greed. ~~Bulldozed and destroyed~~ But at the touch of one woman's hand it was left me standing in ruin.

Kate

And the lesson.

Tim

It seemed to rise before me out of the wreck that I'd spent my life in building. It showed me that those things which we long for, strive for, and are of but little worth, these the things that we love, are the real prizes in the game that we play (goes C)

Nellie

(enters quickly Arch R, stops an instant, then comes down R) Auntie it is not true---oh say that it is not true.

Kate

(goes to her) What is not true, dear?

Nellie

What you told me---that Douglas and I must part. (Kate turns away) You were only trying me you just wanted to learn if I really loved him and I do---Oh I do, that was all that you meant?

Kate

Nellie, I---

Nellie

There I forgive you. (puts arm around her) I

It did hurt at first, but when I stopped to think I knew that you did not mean it. And now I can laugh at my own foolishness in thinking for a moment that you would willingly hurt me. See white, I'm laughing at it now (turns Kate toward her and tries to laugh but still is excited and anxious)

Kate

Oh, Nellie, do you think that I would be willing to give you pain, ~~see~~ even in jest. When I spoke to you just now, it was your father's wish. (goes R)

Nellie

(lugs slowly dies from her face) My father's wish (pause hardly understanding then looks at Tim who has been standing motionless C)

Tim

(slowly) By my wish yes, (they look at each other an instant)

Nellie

(suddenly) I understand now, you wish to punish me.

Tim

Punish you?

Nellie

Yes, because in a moment of dazed surprise I did not throw myself into your arms at your first meeting. You were a stranger you did not give me time to even realize who you were. Oh it is shameful cruel. (X L)

Kate

(up R turns) Nellie, you do not know what you are saying.

Nellie Tim

(motions Kate to silence) You think that I would deliberately hurt my own child from such a motive as that?

Nellie

Then why did you give your consent this afternoon, only to withdraw now?

Tim

(slowly) I gave my consent this afternoon because I would give any thing in life to make you happy.

Nellie

And how?

Tim

I---I cannot.

Nellie

Am I still a child to be kept in the dark? I am a woman with a woman's right to happiness. If it is denied me, I have a right to know the reason.

Kate

(comes down R of table) Nellie, I have never deceived you, never denied you one thing in my life. Believe me when I say it is better far better for you to trust your father now.

Nellie

You ~~must~~ have never denied me, because I have asked for nothing You have both given me what money could buy now I ask you what cost nothing and you refuse.

Tim

To refuse cost me more than all the money in the world (rise) Child, can't you understand? Don't you know that my heart would break with yours. (hold out arms)

Nellie

(looks at him, and thinks that he has relented, runs to him he takes her in his arms) Ah, I knew that you couldn't allow that. You do love your little girl and she will love you, now that you will let her to be happy that is all that I ask---only let me be happy.

(lays her arms around his neck, raises her face to his---Tim looks at her an instant then drops his head, slowly removes her arms and goes L Nellie realize from his manner that there is no hope, drops her

Head Kate goes to her quickly Nellie repulses her) You took my mother's place, would she have acted as y u have? Oh if she wer only here now. If she were only here now. (turns away)

Tim

(agitated) Stop---stop I say!

Nellie

(turns quickly) thy should I not mention her. are you afraid to hear it?

Tim

(starts) Afraid!

Nellie

Yes, you start like a guilty man at the sound of her name (pause) And I ill tell you why (goes to him) You know that she was too good to gentle an loving to bring sorrow to any living thing, least of all her own child, and yet you can do it without giving one single reason.

Tim

(turns to her) Do you know that upon calling your mother's name you bring me sorrow and suffering greater than you can ever know.

Nellie

I should bring you shameshame as well (Tim starts) Yes shame to think what she would say to you were she here now (goes up C behind table exit arch R.)

Tim

Where are you going?

Nellie

I am going to send Douglas King to you, to demand your reason for withdrawing your consent. I amgggngto tell him that if you refuse your reason of your consent, I am going to do both without. (exit R)

Tim

(give gesture of des air) (start to follow her. Kate goes to him R C turns to her) They say that the sins of the fathers descend upon the children. But a mother's sins fall heavier and strike deeper than all else (exit T with Kate)

Durnell

(enters arch L followed by Latimer) Nowtthen perhaps you will tell me what the devil you mean by following me all over town and finally following me here?

Latimer

This is my place of business and you were coming here anyway to see Mr. Mayo, we both happened to be going the same way that is all. (goes R)

Durnell

It seems to me that we have been going the same way all morning. (goes down L) Nomatter where I went, you were always in sight. What do you mean by it?

Latimer

The streets are as free to me as they are to you.

Durnell

No see here Latimer, I'm not so blind but what I shold see that you were trailing me. I suppose that you are acting as a spy for Mayo, but it w n't do you any good. You can't get anything on me.

Latimer

I don't expect to learn anything new about you, Mr. Durnell.

Durnell

Then attend to your own business will you?

Latimer

I have never neglected my business for one hour since I first saw you, Mr. Durnell.

Durnell

No, I don't think that you have. You are a pretty shrewd fellow Latimer

though y u don't say very much. Do you expect to remain with Mayo now that he is out of the race?

Latimer

No sir, I expect to give up my position here very shortly.

Durnell

That's right, don't waste your time with a dead one (goes to L of table)
Now how would you like to join me?

Latimer

Join you?

Durnell

Yes, I can use a man like you when I get in the senate.

Latimer

I have no doubt that I could be usefull to you if you were in the Seneate. I may return to New York I have heard from former employers

Durnell

From whom?

Latimer

From King and Stewart. (glances at him)

Durnell

Ah! (goes up L stands looking off balcony) When did you hear from them?

Latimer

In tonights mail.

Durnell

And they want you back?

Latimer

They are most anxious for my return.

Durnell

You had better say here, there is more money in politics than in banking.

Latimer

More than in honest banking perhaps.

Durnell

And dishonesty is risky at times.

Latimer

At all times I think.

Durnell

Well, I don't think that you would take the risk that King and Stewarts other man took, although he got away iwht it.

Latimer

No sir, the risk is greater than he realized or perhaps realizes now.

Durnell

(goes back of table C) Well you forgot King and Stewart and stay here. I'll make it worth your hile. You understand?

Latimer

Perfectly.

Durnell

Think it o ver and see me again before I leave.

Latimer

No need to think it over, sir. I will see you before I leave.
(starts up C Tim enters Arch R.)

Durnell

Hello, Tim. (speaks carelessly goes L.)

Tim

(not noticing Durnell turns to Latimer) Where you going out?

Latimer

Not until Mr Durnell goes.

Tim

Then see that no o e comes in here. (Latimer exit arch R Tim goes down and sits in chair R of table)

Durnell

Well, aren't you going to offer me a chair?

Tim

(glances over him) Taint necessary; the furniture is mine, but you never hesitated to help yourself to other men's property.

Durnell

Feeling a little sore eh? since you won't offer me a chair, I'll take one.

Tim

Don't forget to leave it when you go.

Durnell

(sits L of table) Mayo you won't gain anything by roasting me.

Tim

Say what you co e for and talk quick.

Durnell

I cam here to make a proposition to you do you want to hear it.

Tim

Yes for the quicker ydu say it the quicker you will go.

Durnell

You're thworing up the nomination is going to hurt you here in this to n though youwill still hold a good following. So far as I'm concerned, it can't hurt me any

Tim

You are right when a man has two black eyes you can't give him any more.

Durnell

Look here Mayo, I am ready to drop this personal feeling. I admit that now I am going up the ladder, I want the influence you still have and I am ready to make you a deal if you care.

Tim

How much influence would I have left if I made such a deal with you?

Durnell

I don't mean t spring it suddenly as if it were all out and dried. I could drop into your place occassionally and beging coming he e to your house noe in awhile, work up a gradual forgetting and forgiving old scores and when we did get to gether it wouldn't excite comment.

Tim

Is that all?

Durnell

No there is more. (goes up R. C and looks off R, turns) Is your daughter about the house?

Tim

(turns quickly) What's that to you.

Durnell

I don't want her hear what I have to say

Tim

Do you think that anything you could have to say would interest her.

Durnell

It might its about her that I'm going to speak.

Tim

(goes to table) Take care, m Durnell, I've about reached the limit with you. Don't drive me beyond it.

Durnell

I am not driving you at all. I am going to state the rest of my porop sition to you and you can do as you please.

Tim

Go on.

Durnell

(turns to him) I am tired of being the under dog inthis town. I want to be something better and I ant you to help me to do it.

Tim

(slowly) You want me to help you do it. Well,

Durnell

I won't. My election as senator won't be enough, I must have backing, standing, influence. Do you understand?

Tim

I understand that you need that pretty badly.

Durnell

And it is your backing that I want. I must have the better element with me and you can get it.

Tim

For you?

Durnell

You have had it with you for years. They will stick to you in spite of this deal with me. If you make them believe it was on the grounds of sentiment

Tim

My sentiments toward you are pretty well known. (goes L.)

Durnell

Yes, but there is going to be a chance in them.

Tim

Is there?

Durnell

Do you know who that woman is---a drunken wreck---a slave to morphine---the paying of a dozen in ever land under the sun

Tim

And what are you? A common swindler at cards---a coward and a cheat. A man with a blasted, blackened name, and a blacker heart. (Latimer enters quickly arch R and goes to Durnell.)

Durnell

(furiously) I'll take that from no man living. (raises fist)

Latimer

(Latimer catches up raised arm) Mr. Douglas King would like to speak to you, Mr. Durnell.

Durnell

(stops slowly lowers arm) Douglas King?

Latimer

Yes, Mr. Douglas King of New York. (Durnell starts, goes down L King enters quickly)

Tim

I am engaged with Mr. Durnell myself just now.

King

(looks at Durnell who keeps face turned away from him) Is that Mr. Durnell?

Tim

Yes. (goes down L)

King

Can you swear that this man is Geo. Durnell.

Tim

Why do you ask that?

King

Because I can swear that he is not.

Durnell

What the devil do you mean by this nonsense.

King

Just what I say.

Durnell

Every body in town knows me as George, Durnell.

King

There are enough in New York who knew you as Jim Bernard.

Durnell

You are crazy.

King

King
Oh no I am not. You have dyed your hair and sh ved off your beard
but I know you and you know ,e

Tim
What's this all about, Mr.qKing?

King
It is about a matter of twenty thousand dollars stolen from my father's
bank by this man some years ago.

Durnell
It's a lie!

Tim
He tells it pretty straight.

Durnell
Of course he does. He has been drilled by you, and that watch dog of
yours. (points to Latimer) It is is a silly attempt to injure my
reputation.

Tim
Your reputation isn't such a delicate piece of work that a lie could
hurt it/ I think that it is the truth that is going to do the
damage this time.

King
Mr. Mayo, I know what I am talking about. Why, for years I worked
beside him in the bank.

Tim
Don't let anyone know, or you will lose your reputation. How about this
Mr. -----ahem, Mr Bernard

Durnell
Nothing about it. I'm due at the convention. I'll settle with this
young cub when I return. (starts up R.)

Latimer
(motions him back, entire manner changes from here on to one of quick
stern authority.) You will settle with me first.

Tim
Did he touch you too, Latimer?

Latimer
My name is not Latimer, I'm Frank Harris, employed by the Bank's
Protective Association as a detective. (Durnell starts quickly, slips
his hand in hip pocket Latimer darsw gun and covers him) Don't draw
that gun. My orders are to bring you back dead or alive. It is up
to you, now go! (Durnell slowly drops hand)

Bud
(enters arch quickly comes down L of Latimer) You got him, ehM

Latimer
Sure I got him. But them hand cuffs on him, will you, Sheriff.

Bud
Soerry to pinch anyone in y ur home, Tim, but a warrant just come
for this here, gent (takes hand cuffs from pocket and d goes to Durnell)
Don't bite, #4 or I'll put them on your face.

Tim
(as Bud handcuffs Durnell) Bud, I have seen you put them on plain
drum ks, Mexican horse thieves, and that gent who beab his wife to
death with a baseball bat, but they never seemed to fit as neat or look
so becoming as they do now.

Bud
They do look kind of tasy don't they? (holds out Durnell's hands)

Tim
Better go through his pockets. He has been doing it long enough to
others.

Bud
(feels in Durnell's pocket and pulls out a revlover) T
hat

aint no fit moy for a minister's son. (pockets gun) Come on Geo
a municipal carry al is waitin' at the back door. (goes up R.)

Durnell

(starts facing Tim) So you will get the nomination after all, eh?

Tim

Well, you can run against me when you come out; it aint such a long
step from the jail to the state house.

Durnell

No, thanks, I shall meet more gentlemen in jail. (Tim laughs) You give
me the laugh, will you? I am going to jail, and you are going to the
senate. But the laugh won't be on me. You know what I can tell,
and I am going to do it. I'll tell how Tim Mayo's wife---

Bud

(taps him on shoulder, Durnell stops and looks at him) Close your
mouth, or I'll make youse eat that. (put fist under his nose)
Don't worry, Tim has a bird in a gilded cage but he can't so much
as chirp. (Latimer takes Durnell off D in R C King exits after them
Bud goes to D and turns to Tim) Now it is me for the convention.
And old sport they'll hadn you the nomination on a gold platter.
(exit D F.)

Kate

(enters arch excitedly) Tim, Latimer has told me that----

Tim

It is true, Kate, Mr Durnell goes to prison and I go to the senate
after all. (goes to D R) Wait till I get down in the street. (exit
D F.)

Nance

(enters Arch L and stops, looks at Kate who starts at balcony. She
has an unnatural manner, has been drinking, but must not show actual
intoxication. The effect being more mental than physical. Her air
and manner being more reckless and coarser than at first, with a
moment as if dazed from eggs and liquor. they look at each
other an instant Kate at C Nance L C) So you are here. I heard it
and came to see if it was true (pause looks at Kate as if hardly
recognizing her) What's the matter don't you know me?

Kate

Yes, I---I do know you though it is years since I saw you.

Nance

You hoped that it would be heard before you saw me again- --or never.
Well hat have you got to say for yourself. (goes down L.)

Kate

I?

Nance

Yes, you. What have you got to say to Tim Mayo's wife?

Kate

I don't know of anything that we need to say to each other.

Nance

Oh don't you? Well, I have something to say to you. I've something
to ask you and I'm going to have an answer to.

Kate

I will answer anything you wish to ask me.

Nance

Oh you will then? Tell me the meaning of these stories I hear about
you. and Tim.

Kate

(turns quickly) What do you mean?

Nance

I mean the story that was brought this house by some servant or friend
of his. The story that is being repeated all over town, that Tim Mayo,
my husband is going to marry you.

Kate

Nance, I---

Nance

What is Mr. Mayo to you?

Kate

I beg your pardon, I suppose you still have some right to the name (go R)

Nance

That is more than you have got. If I had 't turned up you'd have had the name too, since that you have got about everything else that goes with it.

Kate

(turns quickly O) How dare you to speak to me like this.

Nance

Yes, how dare I speak to a woman my husband has supported for fifteen years. (laughs)

Kate

(goes to her quickly) For fifteen years I have earned my living caring for the child that you deserted.

Nance

And now you have come back to care for the father. (Kate turns away to C with gesture of disgust) Nice state of things! you come back and he takes you into his home, gives you ever luxury. I come back and the best I get is a ticket to N Y (takes R R ticket from hand bag and tosses it on table) Here you have that, for it is you that is going. I'll stay here. (sits L of table) Go and tell the servants to get a room ready for me.

Kate

There is no vacant room.

Nance

All right, I'll take yours. This is my house, and I'll give you two hours to pack and get out understand. (pauses and then mutters to herself) Nice state of things, first she takes my child then she takes my husband, and now she has got my room.

Kate

I want nothing that belongs to you, of that you may be sure. (goes R.)

Nance

(angrily looking at her) You lie you want my husband.

Kate

(turns to her) I did want the chance to show him some return for all he has done for me. I wanted him to have a little companionship a little comfort perhaps a little happiness in his home as he grew old. He never had them from you. If he wanted me to try, I tell you frankly I should have done so. I did not know that you were living.

Nance

(has been watching her with a sneer) I don't believe it. You knew that I was here, both of you knew it. That's the reason he was in such a hurry to get me out of town, but I am not going. (after fainting business speaks in quiet tone) See about my room, will you? I am tired---so tired.

Kate

(in gentler tone) You are ill, I think.

Nance

I don't know, I feel all right (pause) Did you ever notice a gas light flickering in the wind, how it flares up bright and strong then grows faint and dim, the wind blows it up and down, this way and that, till at last---at last---the light goes out. (leans back with closed eyes mutters to herself) I feel as if---the wind---was blowing hard tonight. (pause, then opens eyes and speaks as if dazed) I thought you had gone? Is Nellie in bed yet.

Kate

I don't know.

Nance

She should be. It is too late for a child of four years old to be up. (looks at Kate, put hand to head, stupified then rouses herself) (laughs) I guess that I was in a trance. I thought that I was back in old N Y in the old days. You used to come in and help me with the child. Do you remember?

Kate

Yes.

Nance

(leans forward) The old days, she was a pretty kid (pause) Is she pretty now, Kate?

Kate

Very pretty, and very good.

Nance

Pretty and good, so I was I at her age, does-----does she know me?

Kate

No she believes you dead. We all believed that you know.

Nance

Sometimes I wish I were.

Kate

Don't talk like that, Nance/ Why you are no older than I. Think of three years before you

Nance

(slowly) It is not the years before you but the years behind you that makes you think. I've seen forty but I have lived a hundred years.

Kate

(goes to her) But there is plenty of time in the years to come for you to forget all about those old days.

Nance

Not for me. The only women who can forget are the good women.

Kate

Then if that memory is to be with you, why cannot it be for some good. Why can't it be a warning and a guide for a change and better

Nance

No. Yes, I tell you it is far easier for a good woman to change to a bad one. than for a bad one to change to a good one.

Kate

I am sorry to hear you say that. I am sorry you won't even try.

Nance

(impatently) No I won't ever try (rises and with an abrupt change in manner) Where is Tim?

Kate

He went out just before you came in.

Nance

Well, I want a few words with him. (goes R.)

Kate

I think that he will return soon if you will wait.

Nance

I should say that I would wait. This place suits me all right, and I am in no hurry to leave it. (looks again) I think that I am going to be mighty comfortable here after knocking about the world all these years. (Kate goes to balcony and looks off Nance goes up and looks off arch R) Nice big billiard room out there, that is a good game that I enjoy myself. (goes to D in F and looks off) Where does this lead to

Kate

Down to the entrance on the side street.

Nance

Billiard room, side door. (goes to C stops looking at buffet C) And everything that you want on the buffet) (picks up decanter) Tim has the right idea. (purs out drink and looks at it quiffs with

a laugh) And much as wine has played the mocker and robber and robbed me of honor, well I often wonder what the vintners buy, that is ne half so precious as the stuff they sell (Tim batters arch L quickly with good nes stops suddenly seeing her smile dies from face. She looks at him and raises glass) Congratulations, Mr. Mayo. (drinks and sets glass back on buffet)

Tim

(sternly) Why have you come back.

Nance

Alkher. (points to Kate) Then I will tell you I came back to see the woman you put in my place.

Tim

You have no place here, no place in my life.

Nance

No I don't suppose that you ant two of us (goes down R.)

Tim

(quietly to Kate) Kate you had better go to your room.

Popop Nance

and pack your trunks. (Kate continues and exit Arch R without noticing)

Tim

(goes down L and looks at Nance) You wer drinking as I came in.

Nance

That is abo t all a woman like me has to do.

Tim

Is that what helps to make a woman like you? (pause) Did you get the money and the ticket I sent yyou.

Nance

I8ve got the money the ticket is there, I don't want it give it to her.

Tim

(glances at ticket and then at her) What do you mean?

Nance

Wha do you mean to do?

Tim

It depends on you

Nance

(sarcastically) Oh it does?

Tim

Yes if you go I remain here, if you do not take that train at midnight I do.

Nance

With her?

Tim

(turns aggrily to her) Stop that, do youhear me, not another word. (seizes her wrist)

Nance

Let me go---you are hurting my wrist---let me go. (wrenches wrist from him and goes L stands looking at him panting for breath) One night in Paris---I put a knife in a man for less than that.

Tim

There are other ways of reaching a man's heart.

Nance

Maybe I didn't try to go further than their pocket books. (sits on couch and looks at wrist) Bring me another drink 9Tim looks at her without moving she looks at him) Bring me another drink, do you hear? (he turns away in disgust) All right, I've got something better. (takes morphine vial from hand bag Tim turns and looks at her she takes tablets and swallows it, Tim goes to her quickly and takes vial)

Tim

(looks at vial and then at her) Morpyine, so you have come to that?

Nance

No it came to me, like a friaend, a comofirter that whis pers

"Forget" Forget" (rises) Give it to me---give it to me (snatches it from him and goes L of table)

Tim

(aside) My God!

Nance

(stnads an instant, then passes hand across forehead slowly as if a little confused) What was I alking abou? Oh I remember I was agwry because you took hold of me (laughs a li tle) That's right I am not angry now, Tim, not a bit. (pause then a long sigh of relief and stretches out arms) Ah I could be angry with anyone now if I tried. (stis L of table) Say, Tim.

Tim

(looking at her) Well?

Nance

Come here I want to tell you something. (Tim comes slowly down beside her) I didn't mean what I said about Kate. It made me mad when I heard it, but it is all right now, go as far as you like, I went the limit myself.

Tim

(looking at her) Was their alimit?

Nance

But there is one thing that I want.

Tim

Wha is it?

Nance

I want to see Nellie.

Tim

(starts) Youse---Nellie?

Nance

Yes, I want to see her, I know that she is the house.

Tim

You cannot see her.

Nance

Why not?

Tim

Did you need to ask that?

Nance

I'm her mother and I have got the right to see her.

Tim

(turns to her) When you took this ring, your wedding ring---and cast it at my feet, you cast away with it everyright an honest woman has-- (takes plain gold ring from finger)

Nance

Well, she doesn't know. Do yousuppose that I am going to tell her what I am why can't I see her for five minutes.

Tim

Because the record of your life for fifteen years is written on your face. You can't hide that even from her innocnet eyes. Nance, there has been enough hard words between you and me., Look at this without a thought you or me, think only of the child.

Nane

(slowly) Of the child yes.

Tim

Don't you remember how she had the fever when she was a baby why for six days and night you never left her you grew so thin and pale and tired that the doctor said you must have a rest to save your own life.

Nance

I didn't care. it was hers that I wanted to save.

Tim

(goes nearer to her) And you done it to. She has forgotten all that pain

and suffering. long ago. Do you want to make her suffer again?

Nance

I want to see her.

Tim

Do you want to see her? You are hardly a memory to her now. She remember you in her dreams and her prayers---to her her mother is a saint in heaven (pause) Nance, in God's name do you want her to see you---now?

Nance

Maybe I am not all bad after all, now that I am here with only a wall between us, now that I know that it was her voice I heard this morning, something that has lain dead in my heart all these years has come to life, and it is calling, and calling, I want to see her---I want to see her (rise with clasped hands turns to Tim) Oh, Tim I'll go away, I'll never trouble you or her again, don't kill the one good impulse my heart has known for years. (goes to him.)

Tim

Better that I should die, than the innocent beliefs, the loving faith the trust of the child's whole life, one and for all, you cannot see her.

Nance

(slowly draws back her face growing hard and cold) All right if I am so bad so low and vile that I can't even look at a young girl without poisoning her soul, you can't blame me for anything I may do.

Tim

Do you mean that for a threat?

Nance

(turns suddenly) Yes I do. Do you think that I have no feeling at all? Do you think that scorn and insult don't hurt even such as I? You have given them to me and I am going to pay you back and hurt you I am going to stay here until Nellie and her mother meet right before your face

Bud

(enters excitedly from arch L comes down quickly R of table) Its all right now Tim, you are nominated unanimous. (sees Nance and stops at first sound of his voice, she starts in terror and turns her face away, stands trembling with fear L of tim) Excuse me, I didn't know there was a lady here. (removes hat)

Tim

It doesn't matter. We have finished our talk now?

Bud

Then since the lady's goin' I'll wait and see youse a minute. (goes R back to them)

Nance

(whispers glancing fearfully around at Bud) Tim----I----I didn't mean what I said---I'll go now.

Tim

(not understand her sudden change) Go where?

Nance

Away from the house away from the town. I'll take the midnight train. (Tim turns to get ticket from table) Never mind the ticket (she stops him) I can't stop for anything---now (looks around at Bud, starts fearfully at him goes L C)

Bud

(turns quickly) Shall I call a cab lady? (starts to C stops suddenly eyes fixed on C Nance who also stops L C Bud glances at her an instant then speaks in a dazed whisper) You---you? (suddenly clinches fist and rushes down L of Tim Nance screams and rushes behind Tim and cowers behind him, gazing in terror at Bud. Bud rushes down R of table as she goes down L) Tim, do you know who that woman is?

Tim

Know her yes.

Bud

Do you know that she is the woman that threw me down in Frisco--the woman that I hagee hunted for all these y ars?

Tim

What---are you mad?

Bud

If Iam, it is all er fault. I tell you that it was her that lead me on, played with me tossed me aside. Twar her that stole my diamonds, money everything and run away with another man. Look at her. She knows what is comin' toher.

Nance

Keep him away! He will káll me!

Bud

Killin' is too good for such as you, but I swore that I would smash your face, and damn you I am going to do it.(rushes at her she screams and cowers behind couch)

Tim

(stops Bud) Bud, don't strike---my wife!

Bud

(stops) Your wife? (slowly lowers hand then seizes Tim's arm) Tim for the love of God---don't tell me that is your wife. (looks at Tim, pauses realizes that it is true, speaks assif dazed) Her---her-- Tim's wife and she gave us both the same deal. I geuss she won't hurt you any more than me.

Tim

(looks at Nance, she is dead)NO, BUD? SHE WON'T HARM ANY ONE NOW.

Bud

(looks at her) Deed? Well, I'm a son of a gun, she cheated me again. She died before I got a chance to kill her!

CURTAIN